

## TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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## THE UNWRITTEN LAW

EVERY mining camp where the better element prevails has one unwritten law that is enforced by pressure of public opinion. This provides that claim jumping meet with summary punishment without resorting to the courts or any circumlocution. The penalty for claim jumpers is "Down the Canyon" or seven feet of rope with a knot at one end. There is no other alternative and few persons are so daring as to invite either one or the other. The law provides that no man make a location over another. A mining camp is no respecter of persons or ideals. If any man comes here who does not play the game straight the place should be made so hot as to embarrass him in his operations. In the early history of Tonopah where this system was practiced one case was brought before a board of arbitration and that board had no trouble in finding the offender guilty and decreeing that he should be sent "Down the Canyon." And down he went and went so far that he may still be traveling for all we know. Suffice it to say that he never came back and evinced no desire to return to the scene of his claim jumping exploits. The unwritten law which was as rigorously enforced as Jim Butler's verbal contracts served as a guide for future operations and also gave other would-be jumpers a plain hint that they would be treated to even more drastic treatment should they try to duplicate the experience in changing monuments or monkeying with the buzz saw of popular indignation.

In the Divide district there have been few infractions of the unwritten law but there are several cases where a short shrift would remind the guilty parties that they are treading on dangerous ground which is likely to give way and engulf them. Three persons who were and are residents of Manhattan have been showing a dangerous proclivity for tampering with the rights of others. They are engaged in downright blackmail based on news of impending sales which could be blocked by fraudulent locations. No man wants to buy a lawsuit and rather than enter the courts or acquire property with the slightest shadow of suspicion the buyers or sellers have several times submitted to blackmail involving payment of several hundred dollars. This trick has been turned in at least four important sales where success was menaced by the appearance of these interlopers with their bogus lines and monuments. Let the Divide district start right. Give the rascals the penalty they deserve. Send them down the canyon in jig time as a warning to others of their class that such proceedings will not be tolerated. Life is too short to stand for a long drawn out trial. The merits of claim-jumping can be determined more accurately before a court of the people and the chances are that in nine cases out of ten the people will be right. The rope or the canyon route are the only ways of ridding the community of such vermin and the quicker the Divide district resorts to this delousing process the better it will be for all concerned.

## GIVE THEM MORE GAS

IT IS GRATIFYING that the highway commission has awarded a contract for the construction of a section of road between Tonopah and the Divide district. The same fact with reference to another much traveled section was chronicled six weeks ago when a statement was printed that the main highway on the Midland trail between here and the eastern outlet would be improved for a distance of fourteen miles. So far as any one in this vicinity knows nothing ever came of it. If the new contract moves with the same speed as the former something may happen in 1925 so that the children of Divide City will be old enough to hold a celebration of the event. At the present rate of progress this road building in Nevada is very much of a farce. The burlesque should be dropped since it is a matter of vital importance to the millions of money invested in the Divide district to know whether or not they are going to secure any relief from the highway commission or will have to turn around and build their own roads after waiting until patience ceases to be a virtue. The road in the Divide district unfortunately is almost wholly in the confines of Esmeralda county, although the direct benefit would be to the seat of Nye county where 99 per cent of the business originates and where the money would be forthcoming for substantial road building if the state would either keep its hands off or do something to relieve the situation. Under the law the commissioners of one county are not permitted to appropriate funds for improvements in another, so the people chiefly dependent on quick communication with the Divide district must sit patiently by and wait for the red tape of a state contract to be unwound. Unless more speed is shown than in the previous contract there will be no relief for the Divide district this year. If it should happen that the contractor is required to proceed with reasonable haste the improvement may be installed so that when the wet season arrives ore trains and motor trucks will not be stalled in keeping the line open for traffic.

The New York World, w. k. administration booster, says that, "the only kind of league of nations to which Senator Borah will assent is one in which the United States is the super-power." And the World is right! Senator Borah and a great many others are not going to sit idle and see the United States dragged into a combination which would give her one vote out of nine and make her liable for participation in every scrap in the world.

Put radicalism in power and you have the surest cure in the world for radicalism in politics. Look at North Dakota, now in the clutches of the Non-Partisan League. Four of the party's state officeholders under this regime are revolting against what they call the "autocratic rule" of A. C. Townley, their tyrannical and selfish leader.

"It is the duty of the press to lead and not to follow," says a contemporary. Then let us have a repeal of the laws that make the postmaster general prosecutor, judge and executioner in cases in which the press is concerned. Present conditions do not strengthen leadership anywhere except in the offices of bureaucracy at Washington.

## AMUSEMENTS

## FRED STONE MAKES SCREEN DEBUT AT BUTLER TODAY

Fred Stone, the celebrated comedian in musical comedy, famous as the scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz," in which he starred for many years with brilliant success, will make his first public appearance in motion pictures at the Butler today, in the Artcraft special entitled "The Goat." Mr. Stone is a decided acquisition to the Artcraft forces and it is unquestioned that his popularity as a stage star will be increased in proportion as his audiences are enlarged. Mr. Stone was born in Colorado and when a young man joined the Sells-Entertainment circuit. Subsequently he played Topsy in an "Uncle Tom's Cabin" company. In 1894 the famous team of Montgomery and Stone was established, and this partnership endured until Mr. Montgomery's death two years ago. Mr. Stone is famous for his imitable powers as a dancing pantomime comedian, and at last-throwing, tight rope walking, bareback riding, skating and pantomime piano playing he has few if any equals. His fame is not confined merely to New York, but he is known all over the country. If you want to see a picture that is filled with comedy, pep, action and speed, do not miss this one. It is a special attraction and will be shown at the regular admission. Added to the feature a Paramount-Bray cartoon comedy. Tomorrow, May Allison, in "Her Inspiration," and a two reel Sunshine comedy, "Choose Your Exit."

## U. S. RED CROSS GIVES FUNDS

(By Associated Press) MOSTAR, Herzegovina, May 2.—All the hospitals of Herzegovina and Bosnia, which are full of sick and wounded soldiers, returned from Austria, and many civilians suffering from typhus and other diseases, are receiving aid from the American Red Cross which has sent several doctors and nurses here and a large quantity of medicines and clothing. The Red Cross mission, which is in charge of Captain F. C. Thwaits of Milwaukee, Wis., has relief stations at Ragusa, Spalato, Sarajevo, Mostar and other points. It is turning its attention to clothing the destitute, caring for the sick, and improving sanitary methods with a view to the prevention of typhus. It is co-operating with the United States food famine commission which is distributing flour and fat to the poor.

## CHURCHES DAMAGED BY BOMBS DURING WAR

(Correspondence Associated Press) LONDON, March 29.—Fifty-one places of worship in London were struck by bombs during the various air raids by German Zeppelins and airplanes during the war. Among them were St. Paul's Cathedral, Southwark Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the City Temple, Chapel Royal, Choir House and the General Assembly Hall, Mile End.

The damage generally was limited to roofs or art glass windows.

Sweden has areas of peat deposits that are estimated to cover nearly 9,000,000 acres.

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## PORTO RICO NOT RIPE FOR STATE

(Correspondence Associated Press) SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, April 12.—That Porto Rico is not prepared for either statehood or independence was the opinion expressed by Senators Barbosa and Giorgetti in the course of a debate in the senate yesterday. Senator Barbosa said also that the island is unprepared for immediate self-government.

The debate was opened by an invitation of Senator Giorgetti to Senator Barbosa to dissolve both political parties in the island.

"I invite Dr. Barbosa to dissolve the republican party," said Senator Giorgetti, "and I will do all I can to dissolve the unionist party because we are wasting time. It must be understood that both statehood and independence are a long way off. Do you think we are prepared for either statehood or independence?" he asked.

"We are not," replied Dr. Barbosa. "A country which has the number of illiterates Porto Rico has, whose masses are without means of education and whose economic condition is deplorable, is not prepared to be either a republic or a state. We have to prepare our country and provide the means for its being politically, economically and educationally in a condition to enjoy its sovereignty. We are in the position today of a student of medicine who has had two years of his course, who is diligent and ambitious and who wants to graduate as soon as he can, but whose professor had to say, 'continue your studies, you are not yet ready; when you get in your fourth or fifth years your labor will be rewarded.' Gentlemen, you know perfectly well that we are not economically prepared to be either a state or a republic."

"In this I agree with Dr. Barbosa," said Senator Giorgetti, "we are not prepared economically for statehood or to be an independent republic."

Senator Giorgetti asked Dr. Barbosa if he thought Porto Rico was prepared to govern itself. Dr. Barbosa replied that at the present moment it was not, because self-government signified government of and by the people and for the people, while today it would result in government by a part of the people only, because without preparation the people would be governed by the fortunate few.

## MUFFLERS MUST BE KEPT SHUT

(By Associated Press) CHICAGO, May 2.—Authorities in a number of central west cities have taken steps to prevent motorcyclists and automobilists from driving with the mufflers of their motors open. It is declared that the sudden explosions have the same effect as bursting shells and machine gun fire on the shattered nerves of returned soldiers who are suffering from shell shock.

The authorities say that many shell shock victims who had virtually recovered have had to return to hospitals as the result of the sudden "pop-pop" of a motorcycle engine behind them.

## SPECULATION IN GRAIN FORBIDDEN

(By Associated Press) WINNIPEG, Man., May 2.—A bill prohibiting speculation in grain and other food products on Canadian grain exchanges has been prepared by the Manitoba Grain Growers' association and submitted to its parliamentary representative at Ottawa, R. C. Henderson of MacDonald, Manitoba.

For several weeks there has been agitation for drastic legislation. The Grain Growers' association adopted resolutions declaring "there is a certain element on the grain exchange at Winnipeg who are able in a very large measure to control the grain trade, depressing prices to the producer when they see fit, and boosting prices after they have gained control of the grain."

A "Call" "What have you to say?" asked the parson of the church who rang his doorbell. "One pair," replied the chauffeur, beckoning to the sleeping couple to come forward.—Boston Transcript.

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WATER COMPANY OF TONOPAH.  
Adv. A20-15.

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